



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
Historic District Commission

*William Childress, Chairman
Barbara Harms, Vice Chair
Jan Furman, Secretary*

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302 Main Street
Old Saybrook, CT 06475
860-395-3131

*Diane Aldi DePaola
Laura Gray
Alternate Members
Richard Peters
Alan Cantor*

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting
Town Hall 2nd floor conference room
302 Main Street

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman W. Childress called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present – William Childress, Barbara Harms, Jan Furman, Diane Aldi DePaola (remote), Laura Gray (remote).

Members Absent – Richard Peters, Alan Cantor

Staff Present – Lynette Wacker, Assistant Town Planner; C. Maharbiz, HDC Recording Clerk

Others Present – Erin Sliva (joined at 7:06)

III. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Minutes

MOTION to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 7, 2021, as presented;
Made by: L. Gray; **Seconded by:** B. Harms; **In Favor:** W. Childress, B. Harms, J. Furman, D. Aldi DePaola, L. Gray; **Opposed:** None; **Abstained:** none **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

B. Correspondence

W. Childress reported receiving a letter from the First Selectman, confirming that Paul Knierim has been appointed as an alternate. Chairman Childress and L. Wacker will be in contact with him about starting at the next meeting.

C. Committee, Representative and Staff Reports

L. Wacker reported that a request for an exemption was approved at 68 N. Cove Road to remove a second story deck because it is in bad shape. W. Childress noted that the reason for the exemption was the alteration of exterior architectural features and the

building official certified it as required by the public safety due to the deck's unsafe condition. He stated that HDC should make clear that exemptions are for cases that affect public safety not private safety. Going forward if it is private safety, an applicant can come see HDC.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Historic Ghost Sign Update

B. Harms reported that the Commission has received just under \$15,000 thus far for the historic ghost sign project. The next step is to come up with a design for the Stokes sign to submit to Canning for a proposal. Originally, Canning had proposed shrinking and replicating the newer Stokes sign to fit in the space, but HDC wants to use the older sign without shrinking it. The dimensions of the area are approximately 31 feet by 9.75 feet.

B. Harms traced the words that are visible from the sign onto tracing paper over a picture of the sign to show what is known, but there is a small and large space that are empty where words are no longer visible. She stated that the Commission can rely on historical records about the store and what it sold to add to the sign. For instance, there exists a copy of a receipt that lists dry goods, hardware, and paint; and it is documented that the store delivered; and advertisements exist for notions. J. Furman suggested putting the image of the truck used for deliveries in one of the empty spaces.

Erin Sliva, who is a graphic designer and a graduate of Savannah College of Art and Design, agreed to work on the sign's design. Erin suggested doing several visual mockups: one with the delivery truck, one with just text, and one with a medallion. Once mockups are prepared, the Commission can approach Canning to get proposals on pricing. Members discussed possible words to add to the empty areas, including whether the words "store" or "general store" should be included under "Stokes." Decision made to have Erin Sliva prepare visual mockups. L. Gray will reach out to her contacts about old advertisements in the New Era newspaper as well as the son of the individual who purchased the store from the Stokes Brothers to see if they have any old photos or documentation of the Stokes sign. W. Childress also agreed to contact the current owner to see if he has any pictures.

V. ADJOURNMENT

<p>MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. until the next regular meeting of Tuesday February 15, 2021, MADE by J. Furman; SECONDED by: B. Harms; VOTED IN FAVOR: W. Childress, B. Harms, J. Furman, D. Aldi DePaola, L. Gray; OPPOSED: None; ABSTAINED: None; APPROVED: 5-0-0.</p>
